

PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF CHRIST CHURCH, ST. GILES'S.

CHRIST CHURCH, ENDELL-STREET,
ST. GILES'S.

This church is built in the new street, leading from Long Acre to Broad-street, High Holborn, now in progress under her Majesty's Commissioners of Woods, authorized by certain Acts of Parliament for the improvement of the metropolis. The opening was very much wanted, and an improvement it unquestionably will be, but half its value is destroyed by the imperfect character of the plan adopted. As originally proposed, the new street would have been commenced exactly opposite to Bow-street, and would have been altogether a new street as far as Belton-street. In order, however, to save a comparatively trifling immediate outlay, an existing street to the west of Bow-street (Hanover-street), was made use of, and the line rendered crooked, so that every vehicle coming from the north to the theatres, the market, or elsewhere, will have to turn a sharp corner to get into New-street. Moreover the street itself will never be a good one, for however handsomely the houses on the

new side may be built, the general appearance will be destroyed by the old side left standing. There can be no doubt that, it is better economy in the end to form an entirely new street than to widen an old one, as in the first case a double frontage of greatly increased value may be obtained, while in the other, the value of the one new frontage is kept down by the character of the houses which are left.

This was forcibly urged by the *Westminster Review*, and by the Metropolitan Improvement Society, before Endell-street (as it is now called), was commenced, but ineffectually; the result, it is already clear, will show the correctness of their anticipations.

The ground on which the building stands, is of very contracted dimensions, and the church commissioners having stipulated that it should contain 1,000 sittings, every inch was required in order to get the necessary accommodation. Further, on two sides little or no light could be obtained, as the east end abuts against the workhouse, and the south side is to form the party-wall between the church and

the new houses, so that the architect had many difficulties to contend with.

In order to obtain light, the building has been carried up very high so as to get a lofty clerestory with a series of unobstructed windows; and by the aid of a small well-hole or area, taken from the workhouse, some partial light has been obtained for the east window. The wedge-like shape of the ground regulated the position of the tower and spire, at the north-west angle.

As may be seen in the engraving, the building is designed in the early English style (the style of the 13th century), and is faced externally with Kentish rag, and Bath stone dressings. The principal features of the west front are the five lancet-headed windows seen in the engraving, ornamented with dog-tooth mouldings. In the gable above them is a triangular window, and below them is the principal doorway, recessed and ornamented. There is another entrance on the north side of the tower. The height of the building as compared with its length is very observable